

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, On November 11, 1804, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first met a young Shoshone captive at the Mandan Village near the Knife River in what is now North Dakota; she was called Tsa-kaka-wea, the Bird Woman; when they left the Gros Ventre-Mandan village in the spring, Sakakawea, her son Jean Baptiste, and her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, left with them; and,

Whereas, On August 14, 1805, as Sakakawea, or "Janey" as Lewis and Clark called her, was assisting the explorers to scout the way ahead when they encountered a party of Shoshone whose chief was none other than her brother, Cameahwait, who then went out of his way to accommodate the Lewis and Clark party in every way; and,

Whereas, Sakakawea, a "good creature of a mild and gentle disposition," traveled all the way to the Pacific Coast with Lewis and Clark, serving as an interpreter, guide, and ambassador for the expedition; they reached the Pacific Coast on November 23, 1805, and returned Sakakawea and Charbonneau to Mandan on August 18, 1806; and,

Whereas, Sakakawea was instrumental in the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and became a favorite of Captain Clark who invited Charbonneau and Sakakawea to St. Louis, offering to set them up in business; but they returned to the Arikara in 1811 and built Fort Manuel Lisa, where she died of putrid fever on December 20, 1812; she is believed to be buried there yet, below the waters of Lake Oahe; and,


Whereas, America honored Sakakawea for her great service to the United States by placing her likeness on the new dollar coin, and it is fitting and proper that South Dakota, the land of her final resting place, memorialize her for the historic contributions she made to our state and nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 20, 2003, as

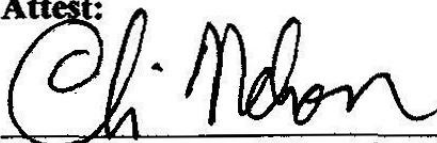
SAKAKAWEA DAY

in South Dakota, in recognition of the "best woman in the Fort" who became an American legend.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

